

Masataka MINAKAWA  
Q97476  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 3-7 and 9-12 have been amended to correct improper multiple dependencies. The public should be advised that the present Preliminary Amendment is not considered or intended to be a narrowing amendment surrendering any equivalents.

Examination of the application on the merits is respectfully requested.

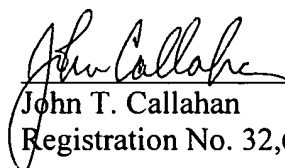
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

  
John T. Callahan  
Registration No. 32,607

Date: September 28, 2006